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Speaking of Dividends

By Shirley A. Lazo

FORD Motor Co. did the expected last week. For a while, it was the only one of the Big Three auto makers to hold the line on dividends. But bowing to the inevitable, Ford cut its quarterly 25% on the common. The new rate of 60 cents a share, down from 80 cents, is payable June 2 to stock of record April 30. The reduction returns Ford's quarterly to the amount paid from 1966 through 1970.

Ford's action follows GM's payout cut in February (to 60 cents a share, from 85 cents) and Chrysler's omission of its 35-cent disbursement. Also in February, American Motors passed its semiannual dividend (the smallest of the Detroit foursome only a year before began a policy of disbursing regular semiannual payouts after omitting dividends in late 1965).

In announcing the lower dividend, Ford noted that it has spent nearly $2 billion in North America in the last five years to bring out new small cars. Furthermore, it expects to expend at least another $2 billion by the fall of 1978 in North America "to achieve even more efficient car packages and improvements in fuel economy." The company added that it has been attempting to strengthen its position overseas and will soon introduce a "mini-car" in Europe.

Ford also said that its retained earnings available for reinvestment in the business have been reduced by the declining return on sales in recent years. The latter fell to 1.6% last year, from 4% in '73.

"The dividend cut, together with other actions the company has taken in recent months, will help to conserve sufficient cash to finance products that can add to profitability in future years," it said. Ford recently cut its 1975 capital spending plans for the fourth time. The latest '75 figure ($700 million vs. an earlier projection of $800 million) is down 16% from '74's $832 million, which itself was $150 million lower than originally planned.

In the '74 fourth quarter, Ford suffered a $51.7-million loss before a tax credit resulted in earnings of $22.1 million, or 24 cents a share. The latter, though, was down 61% from the like year-ago period, despite a 9% gain in sales to a record $6.16 billion. The profit plunge left Ford with full-year net of $360.9 million, or $3.86 a share, off 60% from the year before. Volume rose 3%, to a peak $23.62 billion.

* * *

Chemical Leaman Tank Lines halved its quarterly dividend to 10 cents a share, payable April 28 to stock of record April 18.

East Malarctic Line Mines Ltd. declared a dividend of 10 cents a share, payable May 30 to stock of record May 9, its first payout since its five-cent one in 1957.

Green Mountain Power Corp. declared a quarterly dividend of 20 cents a share, payable May 2 to stock of record April 21. It last paid 42 cents in the 1974 third quarter.

Parkway Distributors Inc. declared an initial payout of five cents, payable May 15 to stock of record April 23.

Pioneer Plastics Corp. declared a quarterly dividend of five cents a share, payable May 15 to stock of record May 1. This is its first payout since 1966.

Robertshaw Controls Co. cut its quarterly payout to 17½ cents, from 22½ cents, payable June 20 to stock of record June 6.

Seligman & Latz Inc. raised its quarterly to 20 cents a share from 15 cents and declared a 5% stock payout, both payable May 30 to stock of record April 21.

Sutro Mortgage Investment Trust resumed dividend payments with a 25-cent disbursement, payable May 30 to stock of record May 9. It last paid 20 cents in August 1974.

UNA Corp. declared an initial semiannual dividend of five cents a share and a 10-cent special, both payable May 15 to stock of record May 1. It declared a 10-cent annual and a 10-cent special in 1974.

Dividend Payment Boosts

	To	From	Payment Date	Record Date
Beech Aircraft	.17½	.15	5-2	4-18
Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel	.25	.20	5-2	4-18

Dividend Payment Dates This Week

MONDAY (April 14)
Adv Inv .08
Alexdrs .06
AAir Flit .11
Bache .10
Earth Res .15
Fst Va B .11¼
Halls Mot .11
Knight Rid .13½
N IPS 4.25pf 1.06¼
OSullivan .12½
Unitek .05

TUESDAY (April 15)
Aetna Lf 2pf .50
Allrt Auto .14
Am Biltrite .12½
Ameraco .30
A Baker .05
A Gen Cv .11
Ampco .10
Ander Clay .25
Armr 4.75pf 1.18¾
Aro Cp .25
Arvin S3%
Aspro .10+S2½%
Atl Cy El .37½
Ban Cal .33½
Bay St G .45
BritA Tob .082
Bunk Hill .16
Castl Fd .10
Com Psych C .10
Crock N .41½
Det Edis .36¼
Det E 9.32pf 2.33
Det E 7.68pf 1.92
Det E 7.45pf 1.86¼
Det E 7.36pf 1.84
Det E 5.50pf 1.37½
Dillon .30
Drexl Utl .10
Fed Pap .37½
Fidelc G .36
Fluor Cp .10
Fluor 3pf B .75
Frischs .07½
Gn Gth .30
Glf Lf Hld .12½
Glf Res .25
Hewlt Pkd s.10
House Fin .25
Hou F 5.50pf .62½
Hou Fin 2.32pf .59¼
Hub 1.75pfB .43¾
Imp Grp .051
Indpl PL .45½
Int Cour .06
Int Harv .42½
Int Multi .24
Iroq Brd .04
LCA .11¼
Londontown .10
Louis Gs .46
Lykes Yng .25
Lykes 2.50pf .62½
Mal Hyd .11
Marco .25
Marcr 2pf A .50
Medalist .10
Milt Brad .09
Mite Cp .04
Mon St .15
Morgan .45
Mtg Gth .10
Mt St Tel .38
Munford .09
Munfd .40pf .10
Nat Fuel G .50
NSP 10.36pf 2.59
NSPw 8.80pf 2.20
NSPw 7.84pf 1.96
NStaPw 7.60pf 1.75
NSPw 6.88pf 1.70
NSPw 4.56pf 1.14
NSPw 4.16pf 1.04
NSPw 4.11pf 1.02¾
NSPw 4.10pf 1.02½
NSPw 4.08pf 1.02
NSPw 3.46pf .90
Northgt .25
Nwind 5pf A 1.25
Nw In 4.20pf 1.05
Occi Pet .25
Okl GE .80pf .20
Orange .03
Pac Gas .47
Pac Lt 7.64pf 1.91
Pac Lt 4.75pf 1.18¾
Pac Lt 4.50pf 1.12½
Pac Lt 4.40pf 1.10
Pac Lt 4.36pf 1.09
Payless NW .07½
Pa Co 4.62pf 1.15¾
Peop Gs .67
Phil LD .1336
Port GE .39½
Prim Mt S4%
Proler .25
Rella Grp .10
Revlon .30
Russ Tog .19
SDgo 9.84pf 2.46
SDgo 7.80pf 1.95
SDgo 7.20pf 1.80
SDie G .90pf .22½
SDie G .88pf .22
St Paul S .08
Salant .06
San D Gs .30
Savan E .10
Savn EA .33½
Schlumb .22½
Sim Prec .06
Smith Tr .11¼
So NE Tel .71
So NE T 3.82pf .95½
SoNE T4.62pf 1.59306
Swt Fl 1.50pf .37½
Spartek .07½
Spartan .06
SO OH 3.75pf .93¾
State Mut S .08¾
Tidwt Mar .15
Tra Inc .14
Utah Intl .25
UV Ind .25
UV Ind 5.50pf 1.37½
Valspar .06
Wab R 4.50pf 4.50
Wikr A .25
Wt PP 4.50pf 1.12½
W Union .35
Zurn .07

WEDNESDAY (April 16)
A Tech In .03
Champ Intl .25
Cox Bdct .10
KC Sou 1pf .25
Nat Ind .06¼
Warner Co. .12½

THURSDAY (April 17)
Lehman .07½
Mas Inc .08½

FRIDAY (April 18)
Boise Cas .12½
DeSoto In .10
Echlin .10½
Ft How Pap .12
Han Sq .23
Huds A .40
Huds B .40
Imp Ch .11
MPB Cp .12½
MWA .10
PepBoys .25
Shapell .02½
USFo S .13
Venice .05
Vest Sec .104
Well Fargo .24

SATURDAY (April 19)
Quak Oat .20
Quak Oat 3pf .75
USM .30
USM 2.10pf .52½
USM 1.50pf .37½

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Emerson's Ltd.	Apr. 16
Combustion Engineering	Apr. 17
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Hesston Corp.	Apr. 18
Atlanta	
Baxter Laboratories	Apr. 16
Chicago	
Swift Fresh Meats	Apr. 17
Cleveland	
Campbell Soup	Apr. 16
Los Angeles	
Butler Mfg.	Apr. 15
Information Int'l	Apr. 17
Philadelphia	
American Greetings	Apr. 17
St. Louis	
Standard Brands	Apr. 17
San Francisco	
American Microsystems	Apr. 15
Genstar Ltd.	Apr. 17
Wilmington	
Halliburton	Apr. 16

United Aircraft Net Hit Peak in Quarter

United Aircraft Corp.'s (Barron's, February 24) first-quarter net rose 7%, to a record $29.1 million, or $1.96 a share, from $27.2 million, or $1.68, in the comparable year-earlier period. Harry J. Gray, chairman and president, also told stockholders attending last week's annual meeting that earnings per share climbed a wider 17%, thanks to a decrease in preferred dividend requirements from the 1974 repurchase of preferred. Revenues advanced 2.2%, to $839.7 million, also a high, from $821.2 million. United's backlog as of March 31 totaled a peak $3.65 billion, up 33% from $2.75 billion.

Commercial and industrial sales of $536.7 million accounted for 64% of total volume vs. 68% in '74's initial three months, with government sales comprising the remainder. United's most difficult problem in the first quarter was in its Essex International subsidiary, a big supplier of electrical equipment to the depressed automotive industry. Nevertheless, the unit didn't perform as poorly as some had forecast, Mr. Gray remarked, and orders from automakers actually have increased in March and April.

United's shareholders easily approved a change in the company's corporate name, to be effective May 1, to United Technologies Corp. Mr. Gray said the name change will cost United $2-$2.5 million, including fees of $120,000 to Lippincott & Margulies Inc., a New York corporate-image consulting and design firm, and $50,000 for lawyers. The word "aircraft" is being eliminated because it no longer serves the worldwide marketing and communications needs of the corporation and fails to portray the concern's substantial diversification, the executive declared.

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Speaking of Dividends

By Shirley A. Lazo

CITING its "current strength" in earnings and "confidence in our ability to maintain this trend," Tenneco Inc., despite lower first-quarter profits, last week boosted by 10% the quarterly dividend paid on its common stock. The new rate of 44 cents a share, up from 40 cents, is payable September 9 to holders of record August 15.

The latest action represents the diversified natural gas pipeline operator's eighth dividend hike since October 1965; within that 10-year period, disbursements to shareowners have risen by 76%. Chairman N.W. Freeman also noted that "even in this economic downturn, our operations continue to demonstrate the strength of Tenneco's broad diversification."

In this year's initial three months, profits declined 13%, to $73 million, or 89 cents a share (78 cents fully diluted), from $84 million, or $1.09 (90 cents), in the comparable year-ago period. Operating revenues climbed 20%, to a record $1.33 billion, from $1.11 billion. Outstanding shares in January-March increased to 73.5 million, from 68.3 million.

Mr. Freeman at the time blamed the poor earnings showing on the oil division, hurt by loss of the depletion allowance, and on the natural gas pipeline unit, adversely affected by curtailed deliveries not recovered in rate adjustments until the close of the March quarter. The Houston-based company's other operations include farm and construction machinery, shipbuilding, chemicals, packaging and agricultural and land development.

Back in April, though, President Wilton E. Scott said the concern's performance in 1975 would be better than that of the industry as a whole and that Tenneco was "in a good position to successfully weather the (economic) downturn and to remain in a strong, viable financial position." More recently, another official said Tenneco expects to show a 10% compound growth rate annually in fully diluted per-share earnings over the next five years but acknowledged that "in a recession year like 1975," the increase "will obviously be less than that." In 1974, the company earned a peak $321.5 million, or $4.08 a share ($3.43 fully diluted), on record operating revenues of $5 billion.

Dividends, paid each year since Tenneco's incorporation in 1947, have averaged 50% of profits in recent years.

* * *

Alison Mortgage Investment Trust declared a special cash distribution of 48 cents a share, payable October 1 to stock of record September 2.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. voted to recommend a 5-for-4 stock split of its common and declared a regular quarterly of 42½ cents a share, payable September 15 to stock of record August 25.

MLW-Worthington Ltd. declared a special dividend of 62½ cents a share, payable July 21 to stock of record July 14.

Dividend Payment Boosts

	To	From	Payment Date	Record Date
American Filtrona	.13½	.13	8- 9	7-21
Beverage Management	.14	.12	9-12	8- 8
Buckeye International	.15	.05	9- 2	8-15
Dayton-Hudson	.18	.15	9-10	8-20
Gen. Auto Parts	.16	.15	9-10	8-29
Idaho Pwr Co.	.51½	.49	8-20	7-25
Mid-Continent Telephone	.27	.26	10- 3	9- 5
Minneapolis Gas	.41½	.40	8-10	7-23
Pinkerton's	.35	.31¼	9- 2	8- 1
Tampa Electric	.26	.24	8-15	8- 1
Winn's Stores	.15	.13¾	8- 4	7-21
Wisconsin Public Service	.34½	.33	9-20	8-29

Dividend Payment Dates This Week

MONDAY
(July 14)
Adv Inv .04
AAir Filt .11
Clarkson .08
HallsMot .11½
Knight Rid .13½
N IPS 4.25pf 1.06¼
OSullivan .12½
SuCrest .07½+.15

TUESDAY
(July 15)
Aetna Lf 2pf .50
AllrAut .14
Amerace .30
A Baker .10
Am Biltrt .12½
A Gen Cv .11
Ampco .10
AnderClay .25
Armr 4.75pf 1.18¾
Aro Corp. .25
Aspro .10
Atl Cy El .37½
Aztec OG .10
Ban Cal .33½
Bay StG .45
Bunk Hil .15½
Cox Bdct .10
CrockN .41½
Det Edis .36¼
Det E 9.32pf 2.33
Det E 7.68pf 1.92
Det E 7.45pf 1.86¼
Det E 7.36pf 1.84
Det E 5.50pf 1.37½
Dillon .30
Donkeny .07½
Falcon S .20
Fed Pap .37½
Fed Rltl .25
Fluor Cp .10
Fluor 3pf B .75
Frischs .07½
Gn Gtlh .31
G Refr .10
Gt Lak R .05+5%
GHLfHld .12½
Glf Res .25
House Fin .25
Hou F 2.50pf .62½
Hou F 2.37pf .59¾
Hub 1.75pf B .43¾
IndplPL .45½
Int Cour .06
Int Harv .42½
Int Multi .34
Irog Brd .04
Kidde 4pf B 2.00
Kid 2.20pf A 1.10
Litln 3pf 1.50
Londont .10
Louis Gs .46
Lyke Yng .25
Lykes 2.50pf .62½
MalHyd .11
Marcor .25
Mater Re .10
Maule .05
Medalist .10
Milt Brad .09
Mite Cp .04
Mon St .15
Morgan .45
Mtg Gth .10
Mt StTel .38
Munford .09
Munfd .40pf .10
Nat Fuel G .50
NEngGE .32
Neonex .02½
NSP 10.36pf 2.59
NSP 8.80pf 2.20
NSPw 7.84pf 1.96
N Sta Pw 7pf 1.75
NSPw 6.88pf 1.70
NSPw 4.56pf 1.14
NSPw 4.16pf 1.04
NSPw 4.11pf 1.02¾
NSPw 4.10pf 1.02½
NSPw 4.08pf 1.02
NSPw 3.60pf .90
Nwind 5pf A 1.25
Nwt In 4.20pf 1.05
Occi Pet .25
OklaGE .80pf .20
Orange .03
Pac Lt 7.64pf 1.91
PacLt 4.75pf 1.18¾
PacLt 4.50pf 1.12½
PacLt 4.40pf 1.10
PacLt 4.36pf 1.09
PayisNW .08¾
Pa Co 4.62pf 1.15¾
Phil Ld S10%
Port GE .39½
PoG 11.50pf 2.87½
Proler .35
Revlon .30
Russ Tog .19
St Paul S .08
San DGs .30
SDgo 9.84pf 2.46
SDgo 7.80pf 1.95
SDgo 7.20pf 1.80
SDie G 9pf .25
SDieG .90pf .22½
SDie .88pf .22
Savan E .10
Savn EA .33½
Schlumb .15
Smith Tr .11¼
Sony Cp .021
SoNETI .71
SoNE 3.82pf .95½
SoNE 4.62pf 1.15¾
Swt FI 1.50pf .37½
Spartek .07½
Sparton .06+.06
SO oH 3.75pf .93¾
Swank .12
Tkwat M .17½
Tran Inc .14
Utah Intl .25
UV Ind .25
UV Ind 5.50pf 1.37½
Valspar .06
Wlkr A .25
WtPP 4.50pf 1.12½
W Union .35
Zurn Ind .08

WEDNESDAY
(July 16)
ATechIn .03
Bink Mf .20
Champ Int .25
CNA .09
KC Sou 1pf .25
LCA .11¼
Oriole Ho .10
StaMS .08¾
Walco N S10%
Wrner Co .12½

THURSDAY
(July 17)
Bache .10
Lehmn .07½
Mas In .08½
Pamida .05
Tuftco .10

FRIDAY
(July 18)
Boise Cas .16¼
DeSoto In .10
Dunlop .032
Earth Res .25
Echlin .10½
Ft How P .12
Gabriel .05
G Cinma .11
MPB Cp .17½
MWA .10
Raym Pr .20
Salant .06
SavODr .10
ScotLFd .18
Shapell .02½
USFdS .13
Venice .05
WellFgo .24

SATURDAY
(July 19)
USM .30
USM 2.10pf .52½
USM 1.58pf .37½

SUNDAY
(July 20)
Mansfd T .02½
NoStPow .459